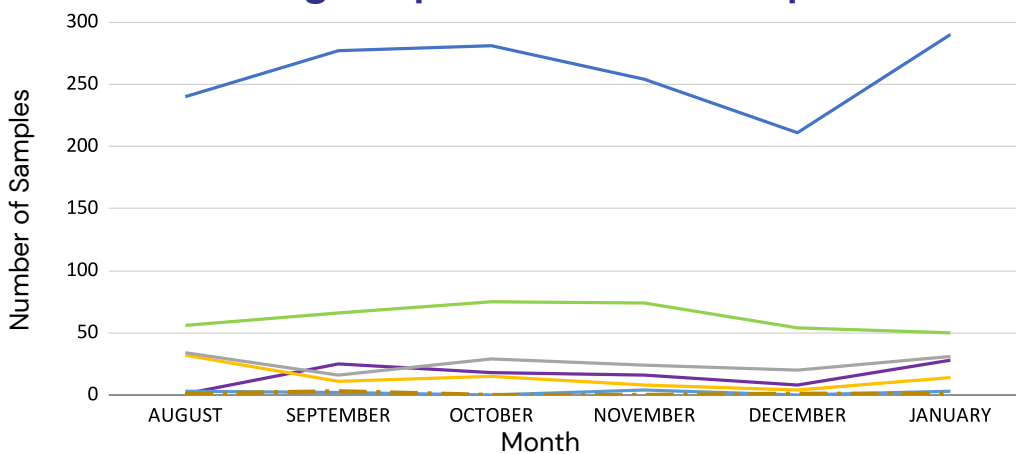




Key Findings

- In January, 417 drug checks were performed across the Fraser Health region (16 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip increased from the previous month to 57.2% (166 of 290 samples).
- Benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in 30.3% of unregulated opioids (87 of 287 samples), indicating their presence in higher concentrations. Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified (50 samples), followed by bromazolam (36 samples).
- Fentanyl was detected by FTIR in 41.1% of unregulated opioids (118 of 287 samples). Ortho-methylfentanyl was detected in 14.3% (41 samples), followed by fluorofentanyl (10.1%; 29 samples).
- Tranquilizers were detected by FTIR in 5.6% of unregulated opioids. Of these, xylazine was most common (10 samples), followed by medetomidine (6 samples).
- To find drug checking services near you, please see our [site locator](#).

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of samples by drug category in Jan.

● Opioid	290
● Stimulant	50
● Depressant	28
● Psychedelic	14
● Other	3
● Polysubstance	1
● Unknown	31

Total: 417

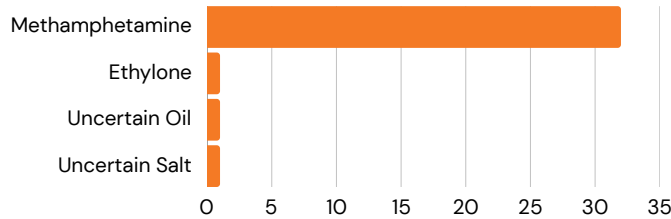
Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Foxglove Housing (Surrey)	47
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	88
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	84
Mountainside (Hope)	14
Mountainside (Langley)	17
Mountainside (Mission)	23
Progressive Housing (Burnaby)	27
Purpose Society (New Westminster)	27
SafePoint (Surrey)	51
SOURCES (White Rock)	31
Total:	417

A small number of samples were tested at the following locations, which are included in the total:
Foxglove Housing (Coquitlam) and Mountainside (Maple Ridge).

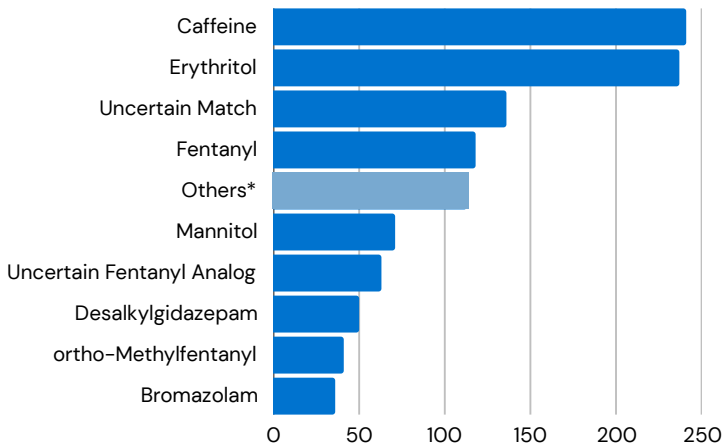
Components found in drug samples in January

Components in methamphetamine



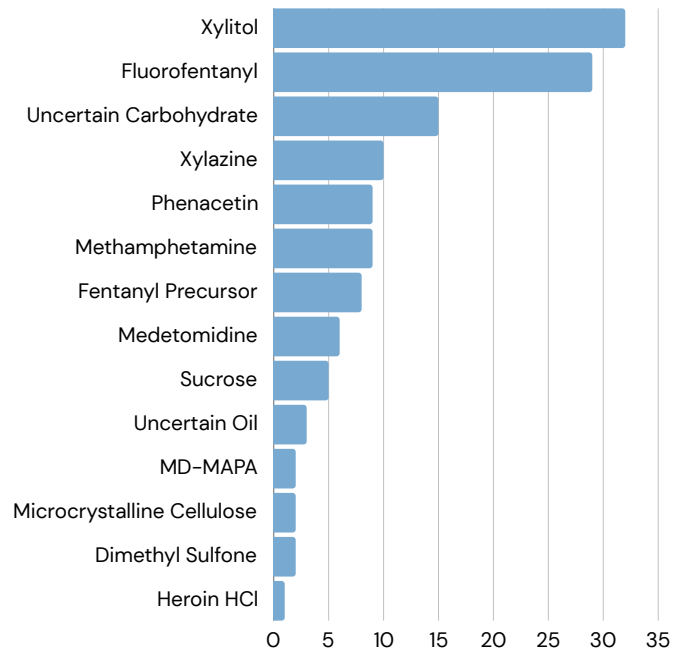
Frequency (N=34)

Components in unregulated opioids

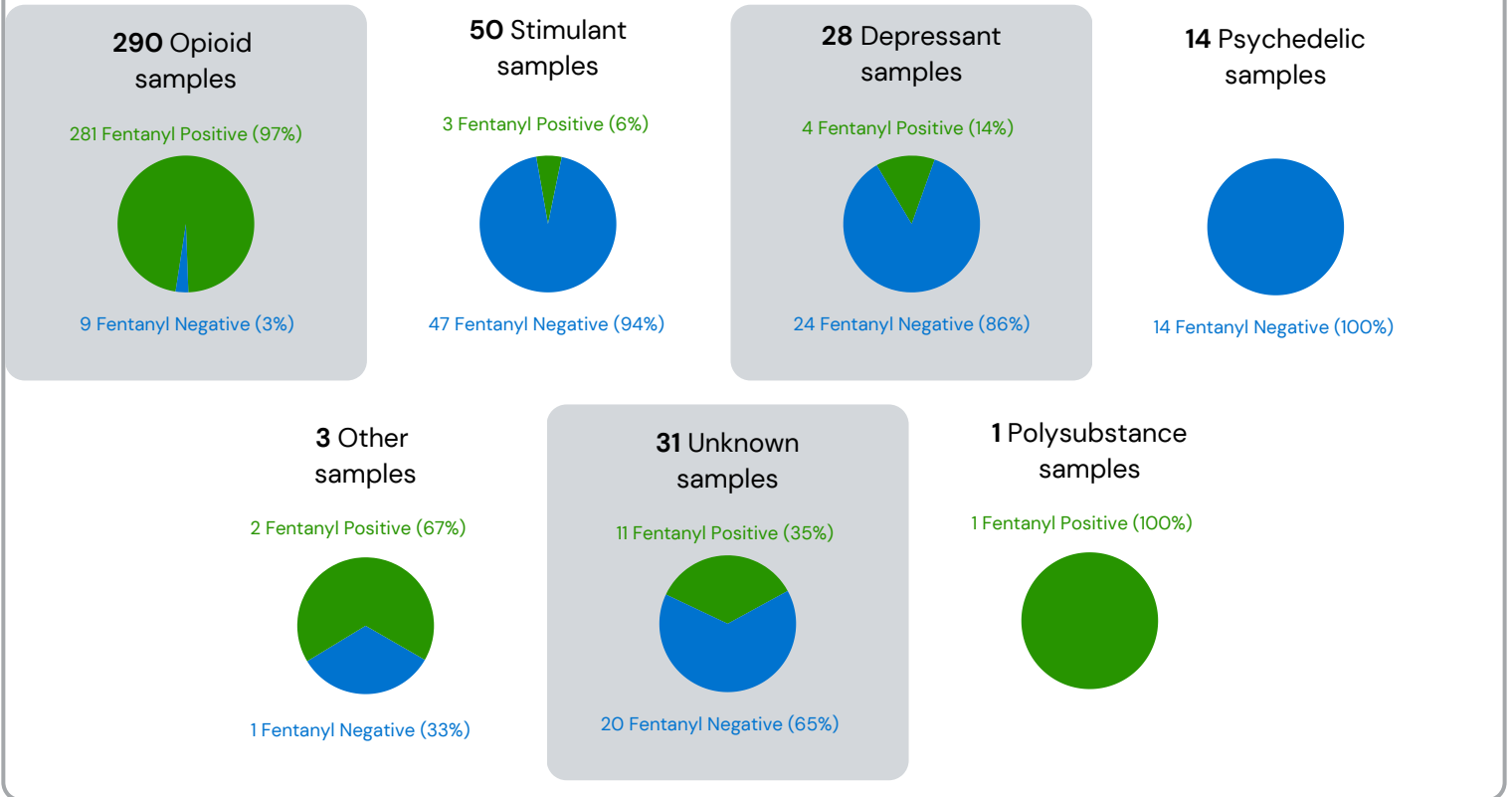


Frequency (N=287)

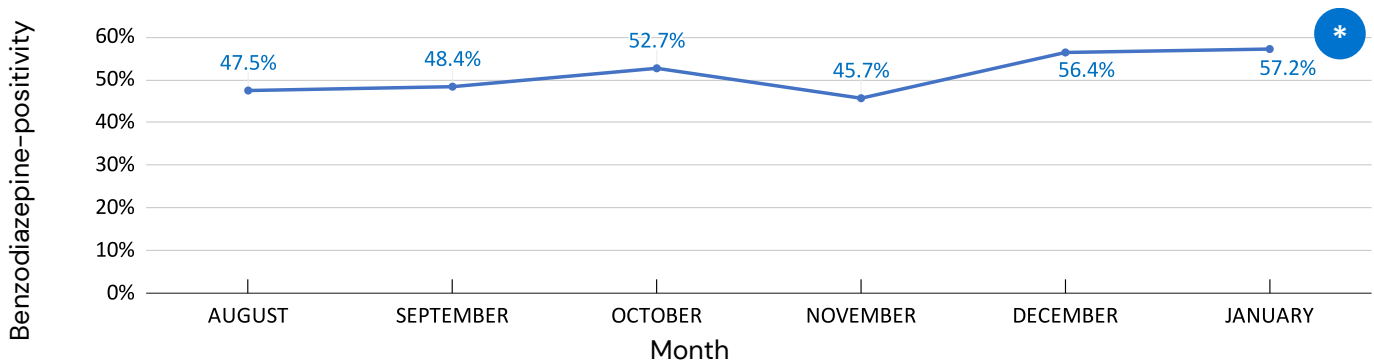
*Other components in unregulated opioids



Number of samples tested with **fentanyl present**











Percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the past 6 months









*During the month of January, 57.2% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (166 samples of 290 checked). Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The results presented here are derived from both of these technologies and are presumptive until confirmed by a laboratory.

Number of samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug		Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Opioid		280	9	1	290
Stimulant		48	2	0	50
Unknown		0	0	31	31
Depressant		16	11	1	28
Psychedelic		12	2	0	14
Other		3	0	0	3
Polysubstance		1	0	0	1
TOTAL		360	24	33	417

Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents.

Number of opioid samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug		Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Down		250	5	0	255
Fentanyl		28	1	0	29
Pharmaceutical		2	0	1	3
Heroin		0	2	0	2
Fentanyl & Heroin		0	1	0	1
TOTAL		280	9	1	290

Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents.
 'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Depressant includes:
 benzodiazepines,
 etizolam, GHB, hypnotics

Opioid includes:
 "down", heroin, fentanyl
 (unregulated opioids), and
 pharmaceutical opioids

Polysubstance includes:
 cross-category mixtures

Psychedelic includes:
 MDMA and related, 2C-family,
 tryptamines, ketamine, LSD

Stimulant includes:
 methamphetamine,
 "speed," cocaine and
 crack cocaine,
 cathinones

Unknown includes:
 samples where the individual
 was unable to identify an
 expected substance - this
 includes found samples.

Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectrometry Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
No alerts for Fraser Health this month.					

To subscribe to the provincial drug alert and response system, text the word JOIN to 253787 (ALERTS).

Data represented in this report is collected from our partner sites across the province utilizing Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectrometry in combination with BTNX fentanyl test strips, as well as benzodiazepine test strips when applicable. We note the FTIR spectrometer has a detection limit of approximately 5% concentration (McCrae, 2019).

BCCSU gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following partners:

